

1 1-2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) A release control method for providing early deployment  
2 releases of a software system, the early deployment releases containing support  
3 for new features and platforms, the method comprising the steps of:

4 a. providing an early development branch of the software system that is  
5 designated for incorporation of one or more software modules providing  
6 support for new features and platforms;

7 b. receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-tested  
8 software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules  
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new  
10 platforms;

11 c. committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and  
12 platforms into the early development branch; and

13 d. using the early development branch, generating a new early development  
14 release containing pre-tested software modules for new features and  
15 platforms;

16 ~~The release control method of claim 1~~ wherein the pre-tested software module is  
17 received at a pre-integration branch that is separate from the early development  
18 branch, and wherein the committing step comprises committing pre-tested  
19 software modules for new features and platforms from a pre-integration branch  
20 into the early development branch.

1 4-8. (Canceled)

1 9. (Currently Amended) A system for providing early deployment releases of a  
2 software system, the early deployment releases containing support for new  
3 features and platforms, comprising:

- 4 a. an early development branch of the software system designated for  
5 incorporation of one or more software modules providing support for new  
6 features and platforms;  
7 b. logic for receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-  
8 tested software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules  
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new  
10 platforms;  
11 c. logic for committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and  
12 platforms into the early development branch;  
13 d. using the early development branch, logic for generating a new early  
14 development release containing pre-tested software modules for new  
15 features or platforms on a regular recurring basis for a fixed number of  
16 cycles; and  
17 e. logic for generating said new early development release containing pre-  
18 tested software modules for new features or platforms on a regular  
19 recurring basis for a fixed number of cycles;  
20 The system of claim 8 wherein the logic for committing comprises logic for  
21 committing pre-tested software modules for new features and platforms  
22 from a pre-integration branch into the early development branch.

1 10-18. (Canceled)

- 1 19. (Currently Amended) A release control method for providing early deployment  
2 releases of a software system, the early deployment releases containing support  
3 for new features and platforms, the method comprising the steps of:  
4 a. providing an early development branch of the software system that is  
5 designated for incorporation of one or more software modules providing  
6 support for new features and platforms;  
7 b. receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-tested  
8 software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules  
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new  
10 platforms;

11       c. committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and  
12       platforms into the early development branch;  
13       d. using the early development branch, generating a new early development  
14       release containing pre-tested software modules for new features and  
15       platforms;  
16       ~~A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~  
17       receiving and testing a plurality of software source code modules that support new  
18       features or platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-  
19       integration branches;  
20       committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the  
21       one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-  
22       integration branch only when such testing is successful; and  
23       committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-  
24       integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules  
25       have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to  
26       the central pre-integration branches.

1   20.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 19, further comprising the  
2       step of generating, using the early development branch, a new early development  
3       release containing pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only  
4       when the plurality of software source code modules has been committed from the  
5       central pre-integration branch to the early development branch.

1   21.   (Currently Amended) A release control method for providing early deployment  
2       releases of a software system, the early deployment releases containing support  
3       for new features and platforms, the method comprising the steps of:  
4       a. providing an early development branch of the software system that is  
5       designated for incorporation of one or more software modules providing  
6       support for new features and platforms;  
7       b. receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-tested  
8       software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules

9                   comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new  
10                   platforms;  
11                   c. committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and  
12                   platforms into the early development branch;  
13                   d. using the early development branch, generating a new early development  
14                   release containing pre-tested software modules for new features and  
15                   platforms;  
16                   ~~A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~  
17                   receiving a plurality of software source code modules that support new features or  
18                   platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-integration  
19                   branches;  
20                   at each business unit, testing each feature of the software source code modules of  
21                   that business unit individually, in combination with each other feature  
22                   individually, and in combination with all other features;  
23                   committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the  
24                   one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-  
25                   integration branch only when such testing is successful; and  
26                   committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-  
27                   integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules  
28                   have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to  
29                   the central pre-integration branches.

1   22.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 19, further comprising the  
2           step of generating, using the early development branch, a new early development  
3           release containing pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only  
4           when the plurality of software source code modules has been committed from the  
5           central pre-integration branch to the early development branch.

1   23.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium comprising one or more  
2           stored sequences of instructions for providing release control using early  
3           deployment releases of a software system, the early deployment releases

4 containing support for new features and platforms, which instructions, when  
5 executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
6 the steps of:  
7 a. providing an early development branch of a software release that is  
8 designated for incorporation of support for new features and platforms;  
9 b. receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-tested  
10 source code modules, wherein each of the pre-tested source code modules  
11 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new  
12 platforms;  
13 c. committing the pre-tested source code for new features and platforms into  
14 the early development branch; and  
15 d. using the early development branch, generating a new early development  
16 release containing pre-tested source code for new features and platforms.

1 24. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 23,  
2 further comprising the steps of:  
3 receiving and testing a plurality of software source code modules that support new  
4 features or platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-  
5 integration branches;  
6 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the  
7 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-  
8 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and  
9 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-  
10 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules  
11 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to  
12 the central pre-integration branches.

1 25. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2 further comprising the step of generating, using the early development branch, a  
3 new early development release containing pre-tested source code for new features  
4 and platforms only when the plurality of software source code modules has been

5 committed from the central pre-integration branch to the early development  
6 branch.

1 26. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 23,  
2 further comprising the steps of:  
3 receiving a plurality of software source code modules that support new features or  
4 platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-integration  
5 branches;  
6 at each business unit, testing each feature of the software source code modules of  
7 that business unit individually, in combination with each other feature  
8 individually, and in combination with all other features;  
9 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the  
10 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-  
11 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and  
12 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-  
13 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules  
14 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to  
15 the central pre-integration branches.

1 27. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2 further comprising the step of generating, using the early development branch, a  
3 new early development release containing pre-tested source code for new features  
4 and platforms only when the plurality of software source code modules has been  
5 committed from the central pre-integration branch to the early development  
6 branch.

1 28. (Currently Amended) A system for providing early deployment releases of a  
2 software system, the early deployment releases containing support for new  
3 features and platforms, comprising:

4           a. an early development branch of the software system designated for  
5           incorporation of one or more software modules providing support for new  
6           features and platforms;  
7           b. logic for receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-  
8           tested software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules  
9           comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new  
10          platforms;  
11          c. logic for committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and  
12          platforms into the early development branch;  
13          d. using the early development branch, logic for generating a new early  
14          development release containing pre-tested software modules for new  
15          features or platforms on a regular recurring basis for a fixed number of  
16          cycles;  
17          e. logic for generating said new early development release containing pre-  
18          tested software modules for new features or platforms on a regular  
19          recurring basis for a fixed number of cycles;  
20          ~~A system as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:~~  
21          receiving and testing a plurality of software source code modules that support new  
22          features or platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-  
23          integration branches;  
24          committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the  
25          one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-  
26          integration branch only when such testing is successful; and  
27          committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-  
28          integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules  
29          have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to  
30          the central pre-integration branches.

1   29.   (Previously Presented) A system as recited in Claim 28, further comprising the  
2          step of generating, using the early development branch, a new early development  
3          release containing pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only

4 when the plurality of software source code modules has been committed from the  
5 central pre-integration branch to the early development branch.

1 30. (Currently Amended) A system for providing early deployment releases of a  
2 software system, the early deployment releases containing support for new  
3 features and platforms, comprising:

4 a. an early development branch of the software system designated for  
5 incorporation of one or more software modules providing support for new  
6 features and platforms;

7 b. logic for receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-  
8 tested software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules  
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new  
10 platforms;

11 c. logic for committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and  
12 platforms into the early development branch;

13 d. using the early development branch, logic for generating a new early  
14 development release containing pre-tested software modules for new  
15 features or platforms on a regular recurring basis for a fixed number of  
16 cycles;

17 e. logic for generating said new early development release containing pre-  
18 tested software modules for new features or platforms on a regular  
19 recurring basis for a fixed number of cycles;

20 ~~A system as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:~~

21 receiving a plurality of software source code modules that support new features or  
22 platforms at a respective plurality of business unit pre-integration  
23 branches;

24 at each business unit, testing each feature of the software source code modules of  
25 that business unit individually, in combination with each other feature  
26 individually, and in combination with all other features;

27 committing one or more of the plurality of software source code modules from the  
28 one or more of the business unit pre-integration branches to a central pre-  
29 integration branch only when such testing is successful; and



30 committing the plurality of software source code modules from the central pre-  
31 integration branch to the early development branch when all the modules  
32 have been committed from the business unit pre-integration branches to  
33 the central pre-integration branches.

1 31. (Currently Amended) A system for providing early deployment releases of a  
2 software system, the early deployment releases containing support for new  
3 features and platforms, comprising:  
4 a. an early development branch of the software system designated for  
5 incorporation of one or more software modules providing support for new  
6 features and platforms;  
7 b. logic for receiving, from a plurality of integration units, a plurality of pre-  
8 tested software modules, wherein each of the pre-tested software modules  
9 comprises one or more new features or supports one or more new  
10 platforms;  
11 c. logic for committing the pre-tested software modules for new features and  
12 platforms into the early development branch;  
13 d. using the early development branch, logic for generating a new early  
14 development release containing pre-tested software modules for new  
15 features or platforms on a regular recurring basis for a fixed number of  
16 cycles;  
17 e. logic for generating said new early development release containing pre-  
18 tested software modules for new features or platforms on a regular  
19 recurring basis for a fixed number of cycles; and  
20 ~~A system as recited in Claim 8, further comprising the step of generating, using~~  
21 the early development branch, a new early development release containing  
22 pre-tested source code for new features and platforms only when the  
23 plurality of software source code modules has been committed from the  
24 central pre-integration branch to the early development branch.